

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An insulating panel for lagging electrical equipment, the panel ~~being based on~~ comprising mineral fibers, ~~for example glass fibers, glass wool, rockwool and the like,~~ and comprising a core (13; 113) of interconnected mineral fibers and a facing layer (9; 9') applied to at least one face of said core of mineral fibers (13; 113), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said facing layer (9; 9') comprises a woven-nonwoven (WNW), a woven mineral fiber fabric or a web of mineral fibers, ~~and in that~~ and wherein the facing layer is chemically bonded to the mineral fibers of the core by a mineral binder or is mechanically connected to the mineral fibers of the core.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said facing layer (9; 9') comprises a woven fabric or a web of glass fibers.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said facing layer (9; 9') comprises a woven-nonwoven (WNW) of polymer synthetic fibers, ~~consisting in particular of~~ comprising derivatives of polyethylene and of polyester to which metal oxide fillers are ~~possibly~~ optionally added.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein said facing layer (9; 9') has a thickness lying, by way of indication, in the range from 0.05 mm to 1.5 mm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said facing layer (9; 9') has a weight lying, by way of indication, in the range from 10 g/m² to 100 g/m².

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the core of mineral fibers has a mass per weight area of the order of 600 to 1 000 g/m².

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the core of mineral fibers comprises glass fibers with a micronaire of the order of 3 to 4.5 under a load of 5 g.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ claim 1, wherein the panel comprises chemical binders in order both to form a chemical bond between the mineral fibers of the core (13) and to form a chemical bond between the facing layer (9; 9') and the mineral fibers of the core (13).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said chemical binder is a mineral binder consisting of an aqueous solution of aluminum polyphosphate salts.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said mineral fibers of the core (113) are mechanically interconnected and in that said facing layer (9, 9') is mechanically connected to the mineral fibers of the core (113).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said mechanical connection is obtained by needle punching the mineral fibers together and by needle punching the mineral fibers to the facing layer (9, 9').

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The panel as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, ~~characterized in that it~~ where the panel comprises an anti-dust agent such as Fomblin® between the mineral fibers of the core (113).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an insulating panel based on mineral fibers as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, ~~and which comprises the following steps comprising:~~

- spinning mineral fibers (10) from a molten mineral substance (1),
- producing a chemical-type bond between said mineral fibers (10) so as to obtain a core of chemically inter-bonded mineral fibers (13; 113),
- producing a chemical-type bond between said core of mineral fibers (13; 113) and a facing layer (9, 9') positioned on at least one face of said core of mineral fibers (13; 113).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said phase of bonding the mineral fibers (13; 113) together takes place at the same time as the step of bonding the mineral fibers to the facing layer (9, 9') by recourse to a chemical-type bond.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in ~~claims 13 or 14~~ claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein said steps of chemical-type bonding involve the~~ comprises the following phases:

- adding a mineral binder to the mineral fibers (10),
- receiving the mineral fibers (11) together with the mineral binder on a strip of said facing layer (9),
- sucking air through said facing layer (9) and then drying said mineral binders in order to create the bond between the mineral fibers and the bond between the mineral fibers and the facing layer (9).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, ~~characterized in that it further comprises the steps consisting in~~ further comprising:

- depositing the mineral binder on a second facing layer (9') and
- applying said second facing layer (9') onto the opposite surface of the core of mineral fibers (13) to the one to which said first facing layer (9) is bonded so that said mineral binder is located between said second facing layer (9') and one face of the core of mineral fibers (13).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that it further~~ comprising ~~comprises the step of~~ drying said mineral binder deposited between said second facing layer (9') and a surface of the core of mineral fibers (13), by heating.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said step of drying the mineral binder by heating is performed at a temperature ranging between 100°C and 200°C.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an insulating panel based on mineral fibers as claimed in ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, ~~which comprises the following steps comprising:~~

- spinning mineral fibers (10) from a molten mineral substance (1),
- producing a mechanical-type connection between said mineral fibers (10) so as to obtain a core of mechanically interconnected mineral fibers (113),
- producing a mechanical-type connection between said core of mineral fibers (113) and a facing layer (9, 9') positioned on at least one face of said core of mineral fibers (113).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said phase of bonding the mineral fibers (113) together takes place at the same time as the step of bonding the mineral fibers to the facing layer (9, 9') using a connection of a mechanical type.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in ~~claims 19 or 20~~ claim 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said connection of a mechanical type is achieved by needle punching, in which hooked needles (180, 180') pass through said facing layer (9, 9') to mechanically connect the mineral fibers of the core (113) to one another and to the facing layer (9, 9').

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 19 to 21, characterized in that it comprises the step of~~ claim 19, comprising adding anti-dust agents to the mineral fibers prior to the mechanical-connection step.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 13 to 22, characterized in that~~ claim 13, wherein the step of spinning the mineral fibers ~~(10)~~ from a molten mineral substance is performed using a rotary process involving internal centrifugation.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (New): An article comprising the insulating panel as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 26 (New): The article as claimed in claim 25, wherein the article is an electrical equipment, a household electrical equipment, an electric oven, a microwave oven, a refrigerator, a boiler or an air-conditioning equipment.

Claim 27 (New): The panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mineral fibers are at least one selected from the group consisting of glass fiber, glass wool and rockwool.